

September 15, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Robert E. Blecha, Director
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
Office: 785-296-8200

On September 10, 2009, the Thomas County Sheriff's Office initiated an investigation after identifying a John Deere 7820 farm tractor that had been reported stolen from Colorado. Further investigation resulted in the execution of search warrants and the recovery of a variety of farm equipment that had also been reported stolen. The estimated value of equipment recovered is approximately \$1.3 million dollars. The Kansas Sheriffs' Offices that are involved with the recovery of equipment include: Thomas, Greeley, Wichita, Cheyenne, Rawlins, Sherman and Scott Counties. All the identified stolen equipment has been reported stolen from the states of: Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and Oklahoma. The investigation continues. The KBI and FBI are assisting the county sheriffs' offices.

No further information is available at this time.